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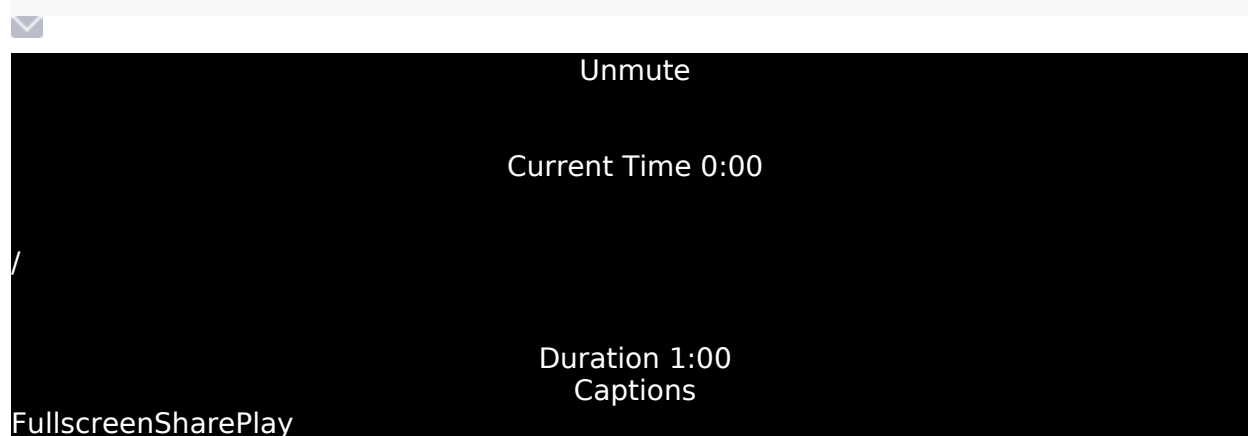
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ADMINISTRATION

Trump appears to flip off Ford worker calling him a 'pedophile protector'

by [Ashleigh Fields](#) - 01/13/26 6:31 PM ET



President Trump appeared to flip off a Ford worker in Michigan in an incident Tuesday caught on video obtained by TMZ.

Trump was in the state to give an address on his economic agenda and tour Ford's River Rouge complex in Dearborn. During his walk-through, TMZ reported a

staffer yelled “pedophile protector” at the president, presumably a reference to the controversy over the federal records regarding the convicted sex trafficker Jeffrey Epstein.

In the video posted online by TMZ, Trump responds by twice pointing at the person and mouthing “f— you,” before giving them the middle finger.

“A lunatic was wildly screaming expletives in a complete fit of rage, and the President gave an appropriate and unambiguous response,” White House communications director Steven Cheung told The Hill.

Democratic National Committee Chair Ken Martin chimed in with criticism in a post on the social platform X.

“Protecting pedophiles and saying [f—] you to American workers,” Martin wrote.

The president has said Democrats are using the Epstein files to distract from the progress of his administration.

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A renewed push for the files’ release has grown after the Department of Justice (DOJ) failed to release information tied to the disgraced financier within 30 days of the Epstein Files Transparency Act being signed into law, as it mandated.

Reps. Thomas Massie (R-Ky.) and Ro Khanna (D-Calif.) said they can hold Attorney General Pam Bondi in

contempt for failing to produce the records as outlined in the bill.

DOJ officials are required by the act to release all nonprosecution agreements, flight logs and travel records, and individuals named or referenced, including government officials, in connection with the investigation of Epstein.

—Updated at 7:12 p.m. EST

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